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TAPATI

THE DAUGHTER OF THE SUN GOD



TWO TALES FROM THE MAHABHARAT

DILIP KADAM 84.

Amar Chitra Katha
No. 327, February 1, 1985

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Tapati

The Mahabharata is such an ocean that every time you take a plunge in it you come up with a new story that both instructs and delights.

In the story of Samvarana and Tapati, in this Chitra Katha, Vasishtha instructs Samvarana that though prayers do help us realise our desires, great personal effort must always be put in. Vyasa perhaps intended this moral lesson though he does not specify it.

'Ruru and Premadvara' is a tale of love and sacrifice. Ruru's gift of life to Premadvara results in the diminution of his own life by half. This story can rightly take its place alongside the more famous story of Savitri and Satyavan from the same source.

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SAMVARANA AND TAPATI

SAMVARANA, RULER OF THE KINGDOM OF THE BHARATAS, HEARD WITH A HEAVY HEART, REPORTS FROM HIS MINISTERS OF THE SUFFERINGS OF HIS SUBJECTS.

FAMINE,
DROUGHT AND DISEASE
STALK THE LAND.

OUR
PEOPLE ARE
DYING BY
THE HUNDRED...

... AND THOSE THAT ARE
ALIVE, CONSIDER THEIR
PLIGHT TO BE WORSE THAN
DEATH.

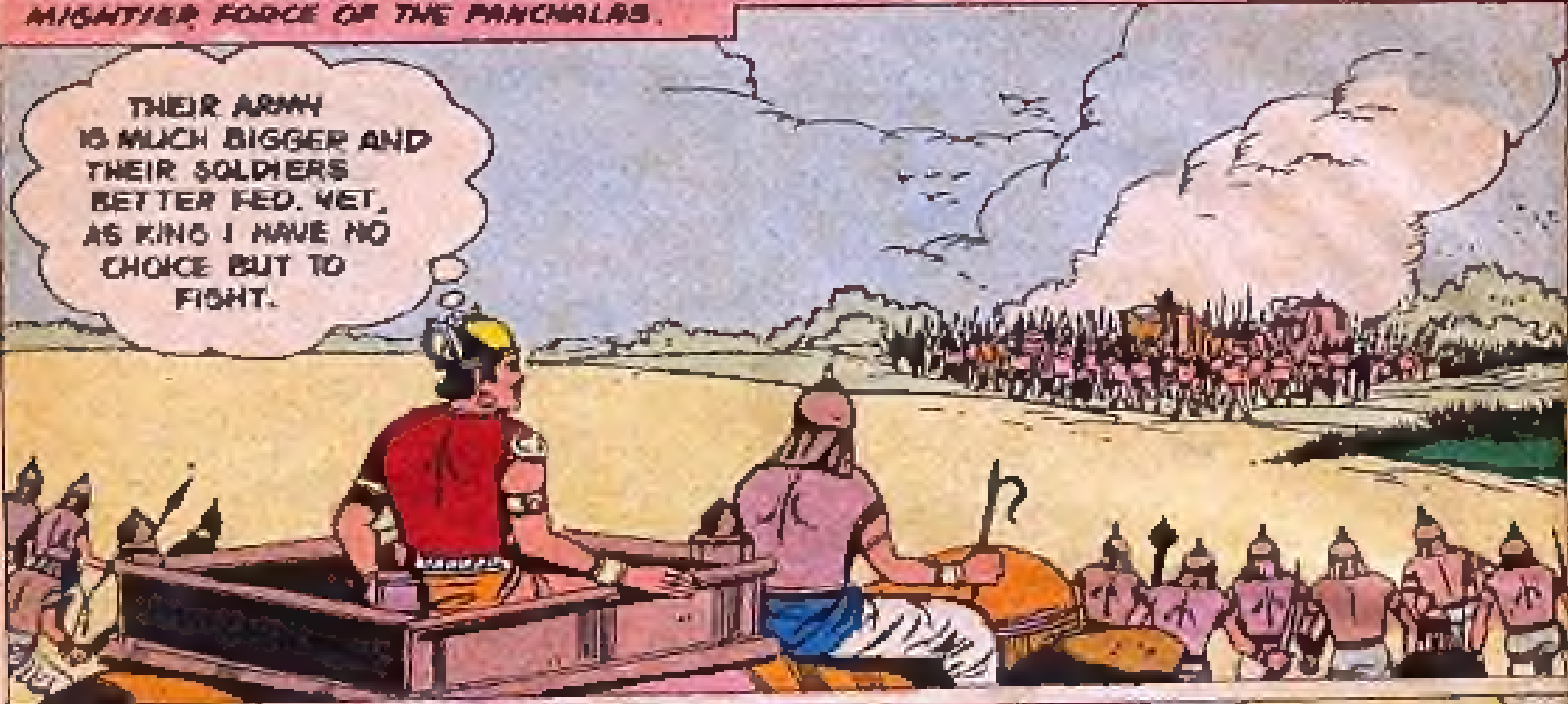
AH! WHAT A WRETCHED
KING I AM THAT I MUST SEE
MY PEOPLE SUFFER
THUS!

BUT WORSE
IS TO COME,
FOR...

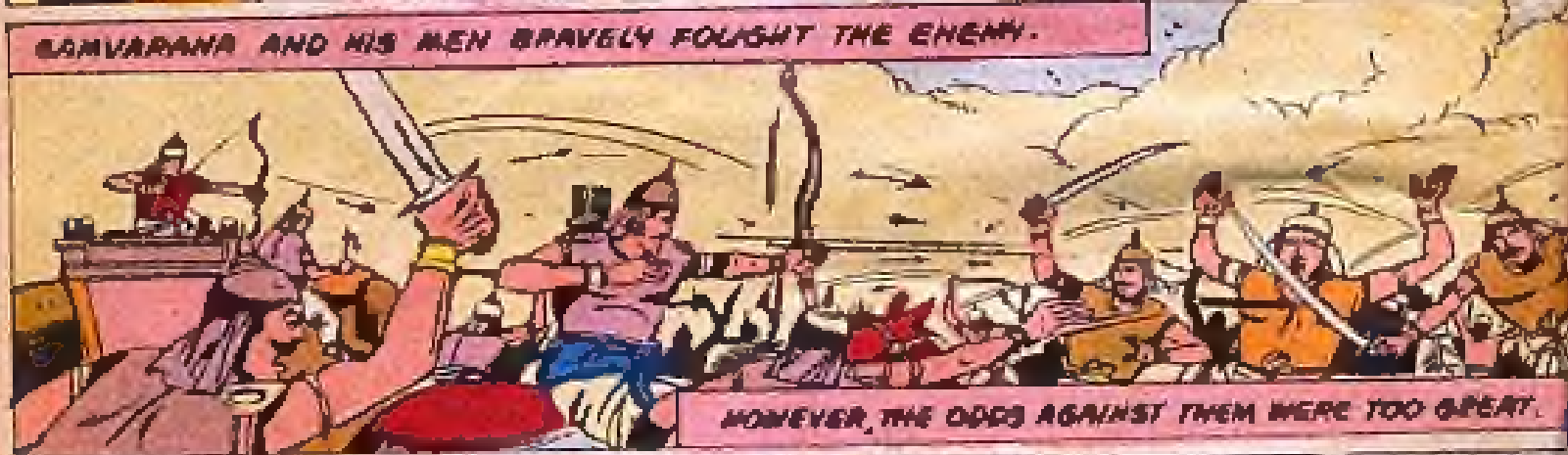
...THE...THE
PANCHALAS HAVE
DECLARED WAR
ON US.

SAMVARANA'S HEART SANK AS HE LED HIS ARMY TO THE FIELD OF BATTLE TO FACE THE MIGHTIER FORCE OF THE PANCHALAS.

THEIR ARMY IS MUCH BIGGER AND THEIR SOLDIERS BETTER FED. YET, AS KING I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT.



SAMVARANA AND HIS MEN BRAVELY FOUGHT THE ENEMY.

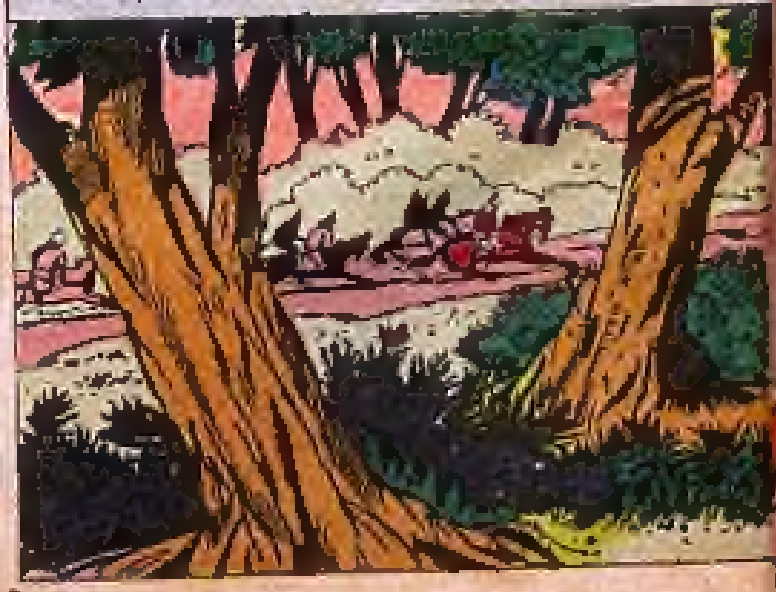


HOWEVER, THE ODDS AGAINST THEM WERE TOO GREAT.

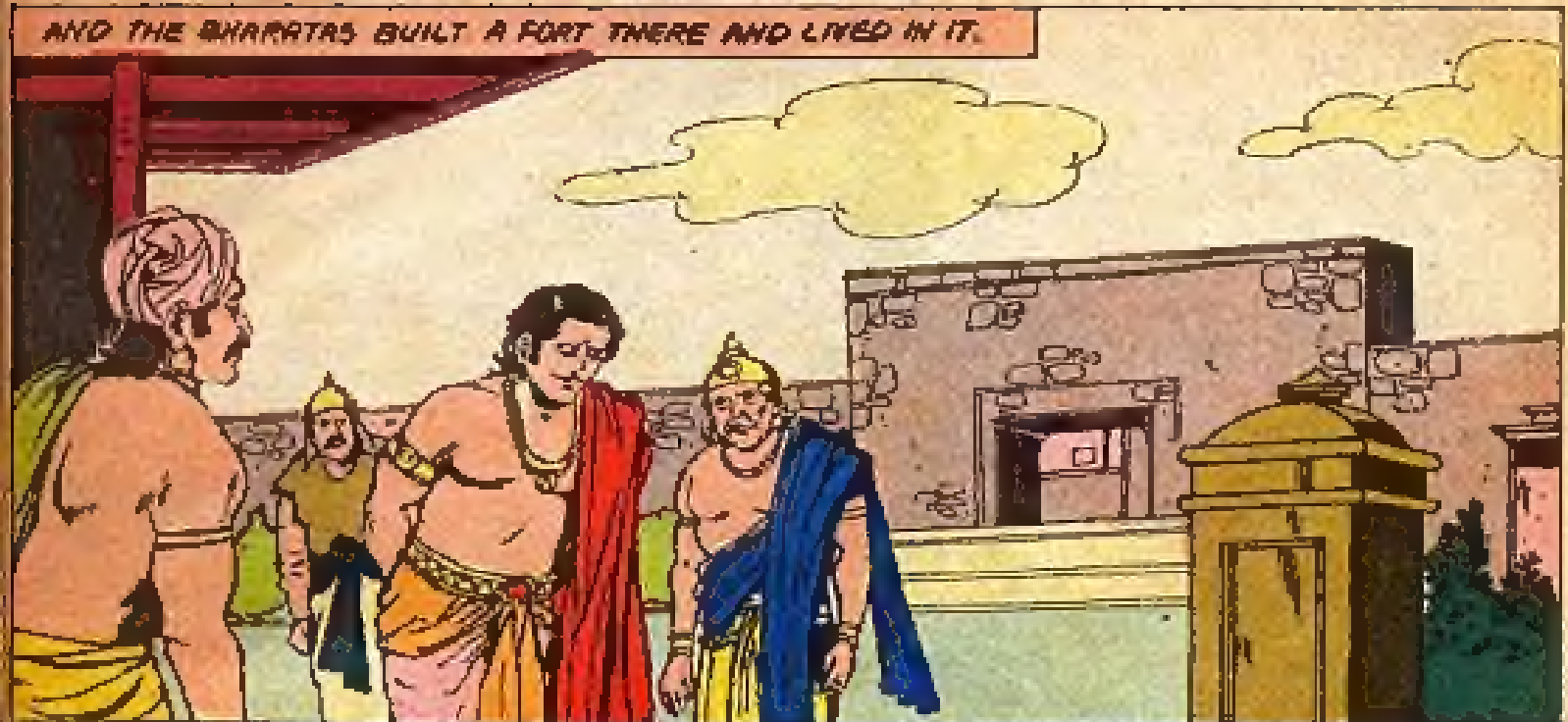
IT'S ALL OVER FOR US.



HUMILIATED AND GRIEF-STRICKEN, SAMVARANA FLED WITH HIS MEN AND HIS FAMILY TO THE FOREST ON THE BANKS OF THE SINDHU.



AND THE BHARATAS BUILT A FORT THERE AND LIVED IN IT.



FOR MANY YEARS SAMYARANA LIVED IN THE WILDERNESS NURSING THE WOUND OF DEFEAT.

THEN, ONE DAY, THE VENERABLE SAGE, VASISHTHA, VISITED THE FORT. SAMYARANA RECEIVED HIM WITH REVERENCE.



GREAT ONE, WE HAVE LOST OUR KINGDOM. WE ARE UNABLE TO PRACTISE OUR DHARMA.



BE OUR GURU, REVERED SAGE. YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR PRAYERS WILL HELP US REGAIN OUR KINGDOM.

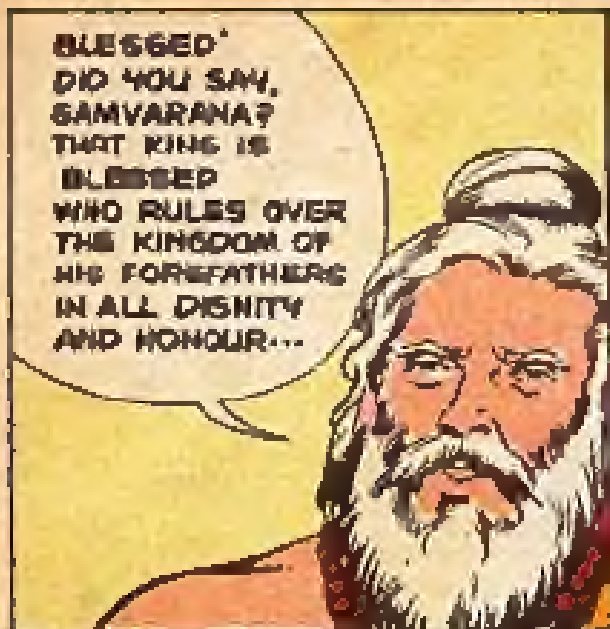


VASISHTHA SMILED.

SO BE IT.

I AM INDEED BLESSED.





BLESSED DID YOU SAY, SAMVARANA? THAT KING IS BLESSED WHO RULES OVER THE KINGDOM OF HIS FOREFATHERS IN ALL DIGNITY AND HONOUR...



...NOT ONE WHO LIVES IN EXILE.



REVERED ONE...

WHY HAVE YOU ALLOWED YOUR DEFEAT TO SWATTER YOU SO? CHALLENGE THE PANCHALAS TO A BATTLE AND REGAIN YOUR THRONE.



MY PRESENCE WILL NOT WORK MIRACLES FOR YOU, SAMVARANA. IT IS BY YOUR OWN EFFORTS THAT YOUR DESIRE WILL BE FULFILLED.



GREAT SAGE, YOUR WORDS GIVE ME COURAGE. THIS VERY DAY, I WILL START MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

GOOD! I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR VICTORY.

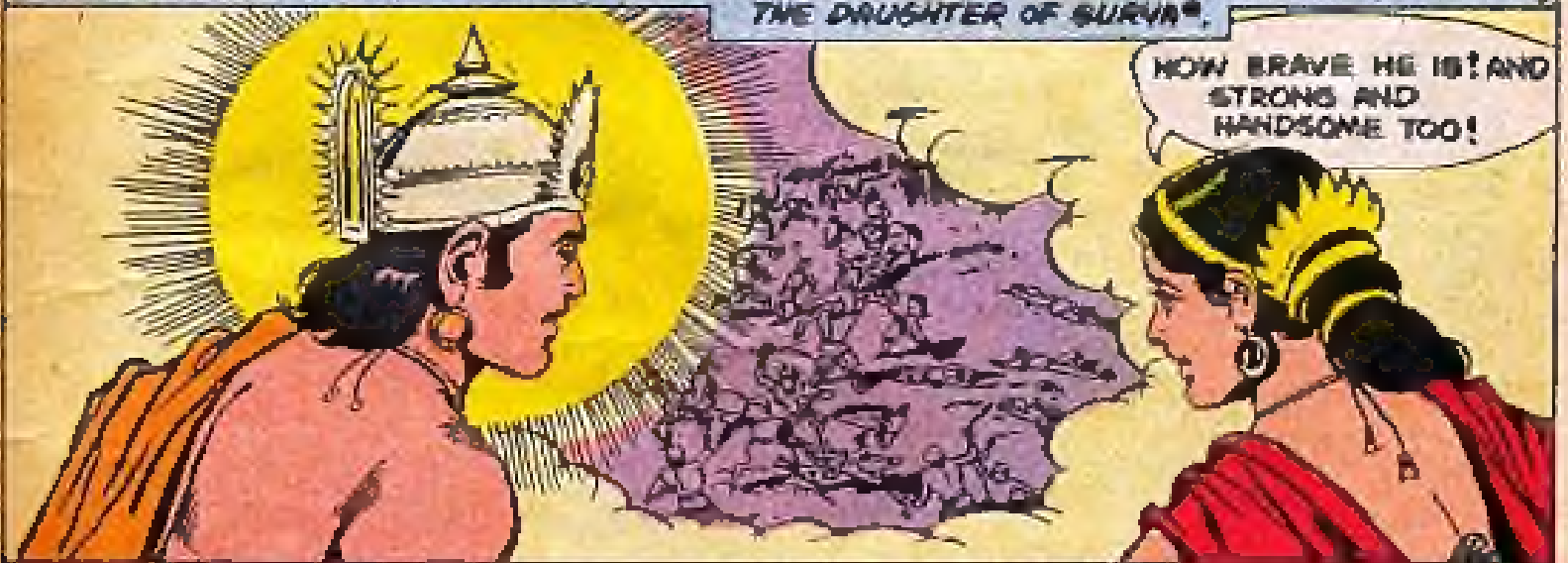


THE SAGE'S PRESENCE HAS HAD ITS EFFECT ON OUR KING. WE ARE BOUND TO SEE BETTER TIMES!

SAMVARANA RALLIED HIS LOYAL BOLDIERS AND DECLARED WAR ON THE PANCHALAS. HE FOUGHT LIKE ONE INSPIRED.

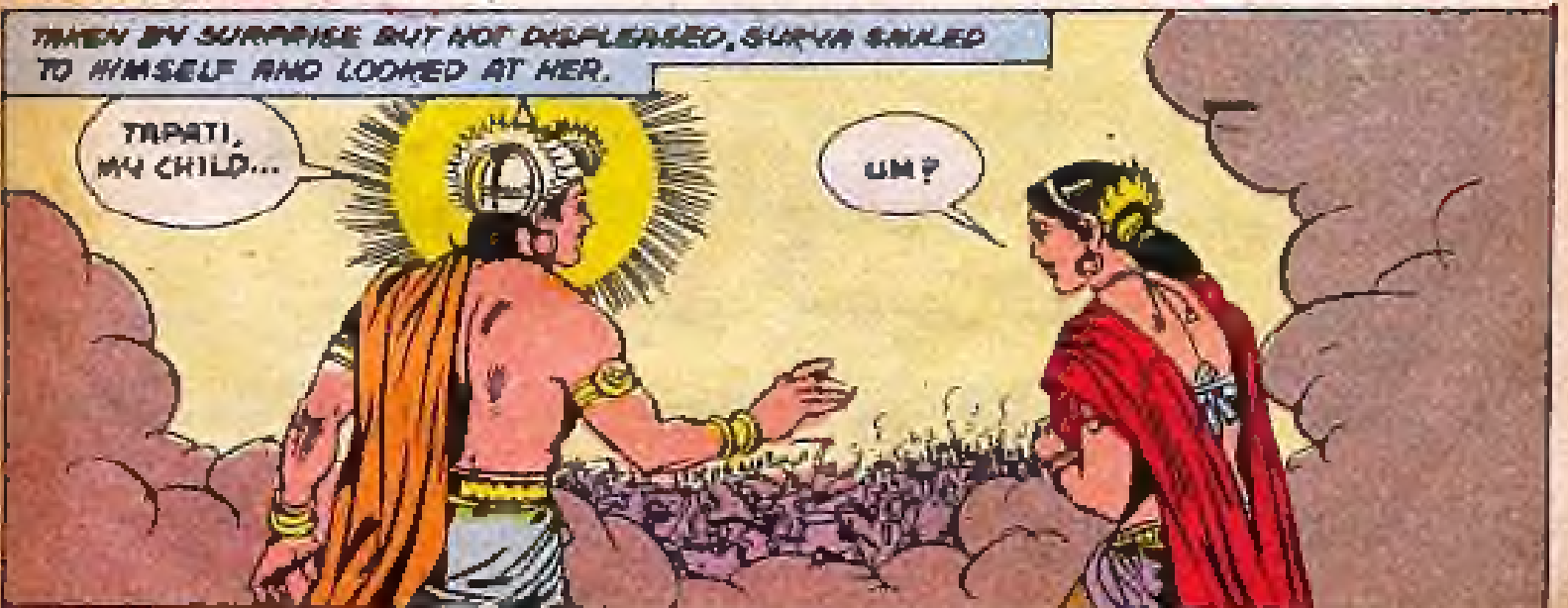


SAMVARANA'S VIGOUR AND VALOUR WON THE ADMIRATION, THE VERY HEART OF TAPATI, THE DAUGHTER OF SURYA.



HOW BRAVE HE IS! AND STRONG AND HANDSOME TOO!

TAKEN BY SURPRISE BUT NOT DISPLEASED, SURYA SMILED TO HIMSELF AND LOOKED AT HER.

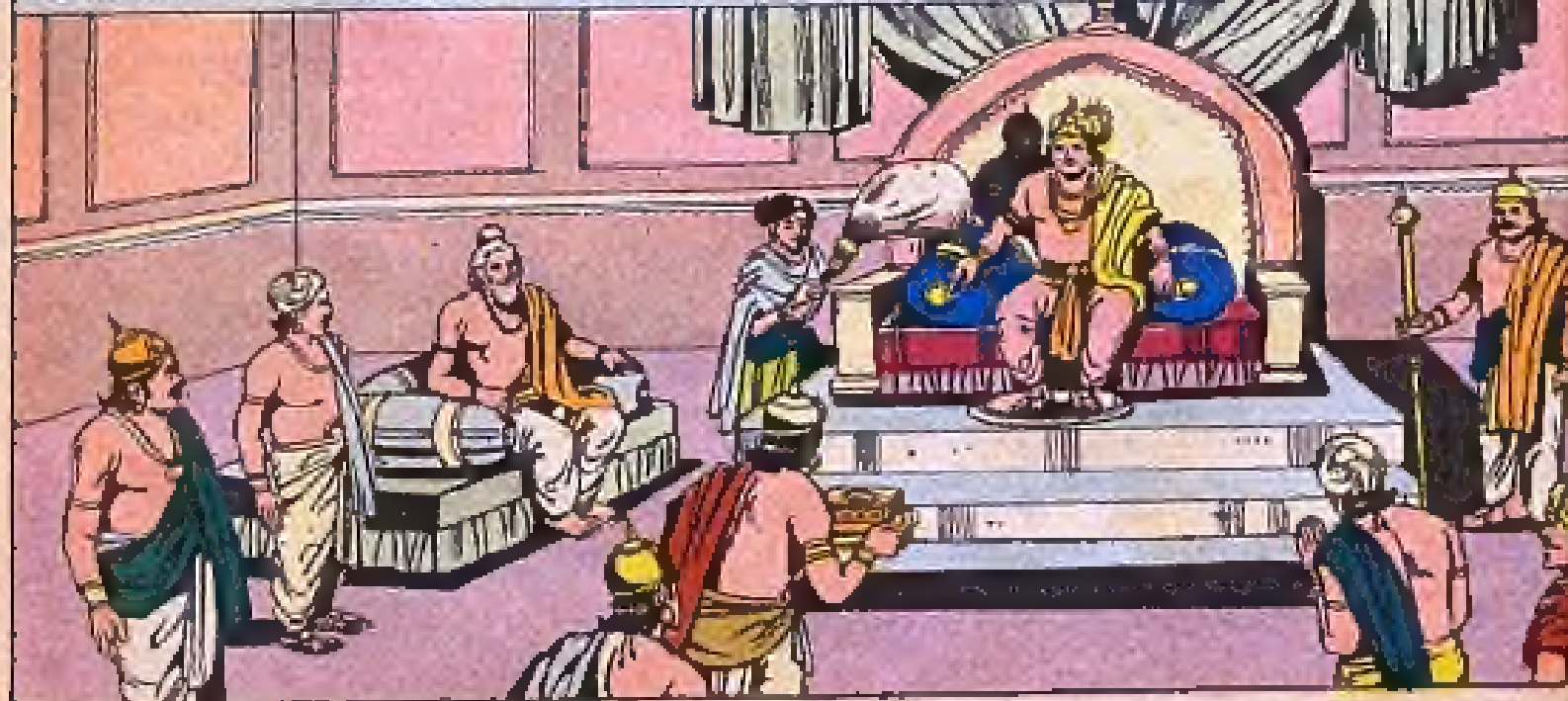


TAPATI, MY CHILD...

UM?



SAHVARSHA WON THE WAR AND ASCENDED HIS THRONE ONCE MORE.



ONE DAY, SAMVARANA SET OUT ON A HUNT WITH A FEW COMPANIONS.

LOOK—
A DEER!
AFTER IT!

THE CHASE BEGAN. SAMVARANA SOON LEFT THE OTHERS BEHIND...

...AND FOUND HIMSELF RIDING ALONE ON THE MOODY MOUNTAINSIDE.

HOW FIERCELY SARVA
SHINES TODAY! I AM
EXHAUSTED MY HORSE
MUST BE SO,
TOO.

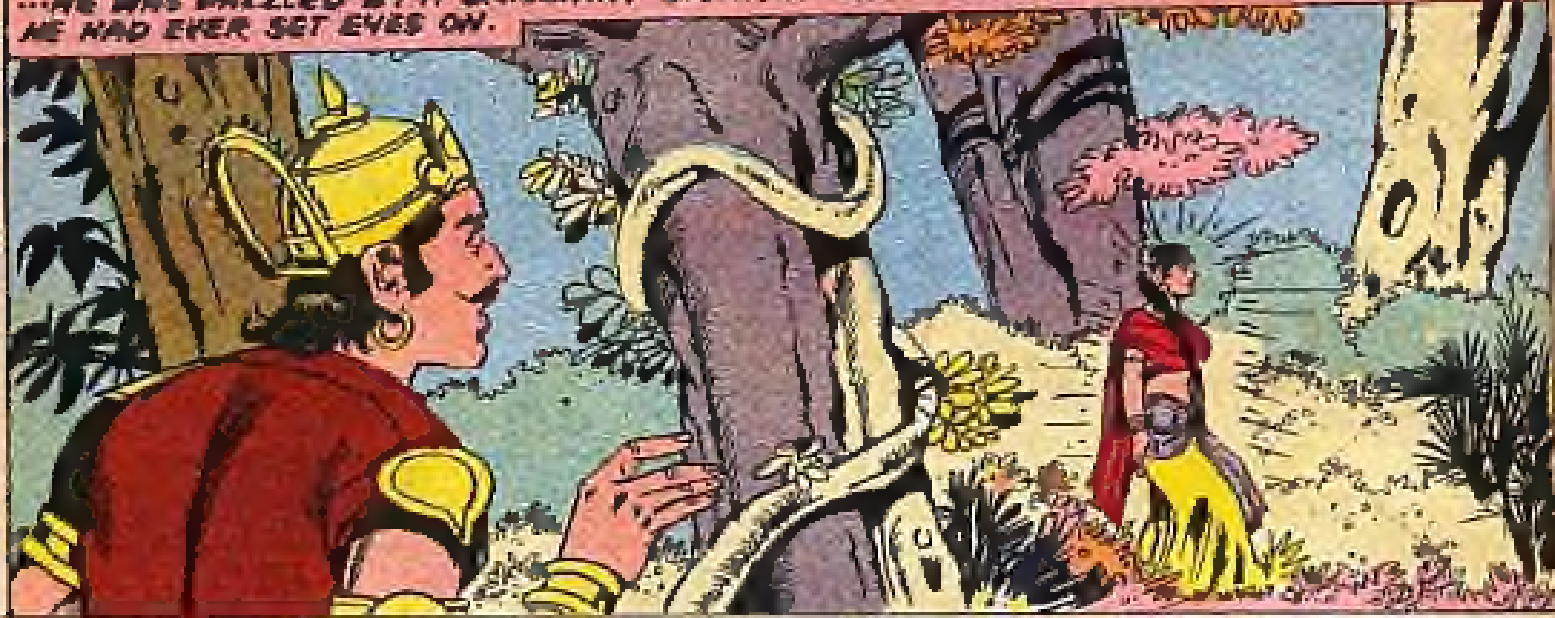
IT WAS, FOR IT SUDDENLY
TOTTERED AND FELL.

MY POOR ONE, IT HAS
BEEN TOO MUCH FOR
YOU. COME, LET US
LOOK FOR A
STREAM.

AT A STREAM THEY DRANK THEIR FILL.

THEN AS SAMVARANA
ROSE TO HIS FEET...

...HE WAS DAZZLED BY A BRILLIANT SIGHT. IT WAS A WOMAN - THE MOST RADIANT ONE HE HAD EVER SET EYES ON.



BATHED IN HER SPLENDOR, THE VERY CREEPERS AND PLANTS SEEMED TO HAVE TURNED INTO GOLD.

SUCH A GREAT BEAUTY MUST HAVE BEEN FASHIONED BY CHURNING OUT THE BEST FROM DEVA, ASURA AND MAN! OR IS SHE GODDESS SRI HERSELF?



SAVARANA FOUND HIMSELF WALKING TOWARDS HER.

O FLAWLESS ONE, WHO ARE YOU? NO DEVA, ASURA OR HUMAN MAIDEN I HAVE SEEN CAN COMPARE WITH YOU IN BEAUTY!



THOUGH DICKED
OUT IN JEWELS YOU
EMERGE THE MOST
COVERED JEWEL OF
THEM ALL



YOU ARE
LOVED UP
THAN THE
MOON



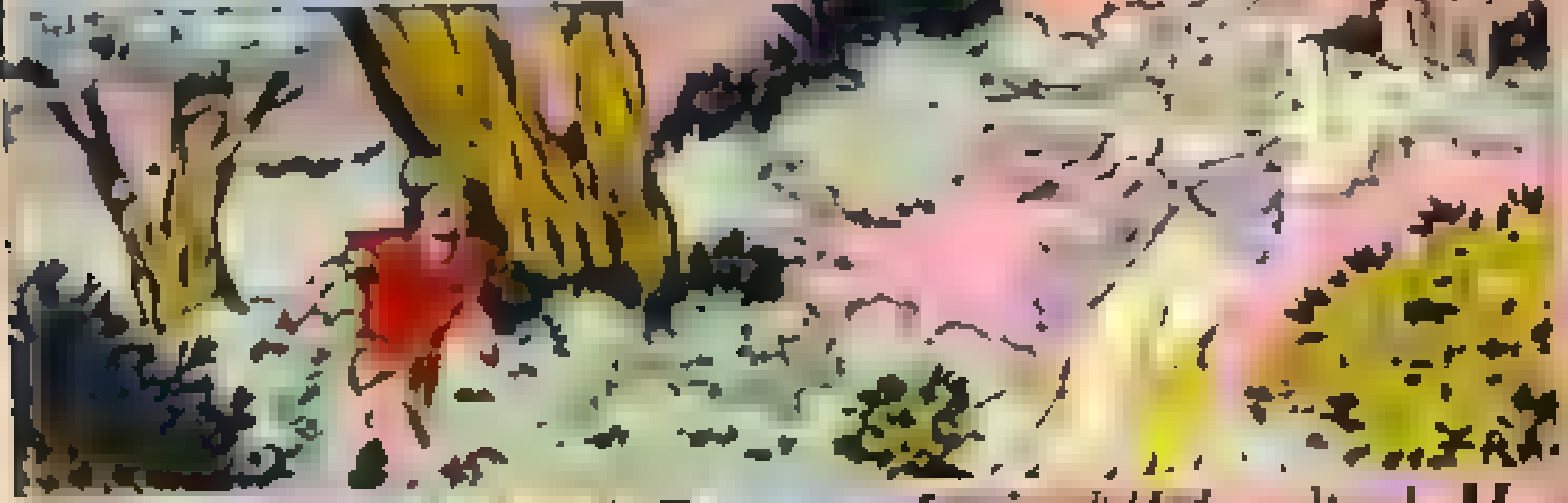
I AM
FILLED
WITH WITH
LONGING..



SHE IS GONE!
VANISHED!



DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION BY HER SLAVEN LIPS AND SMILES,
RAVAPANA WANDERED HITHER AND THITHER THROUGH
THE FOREST, SEARCHING FOR HER



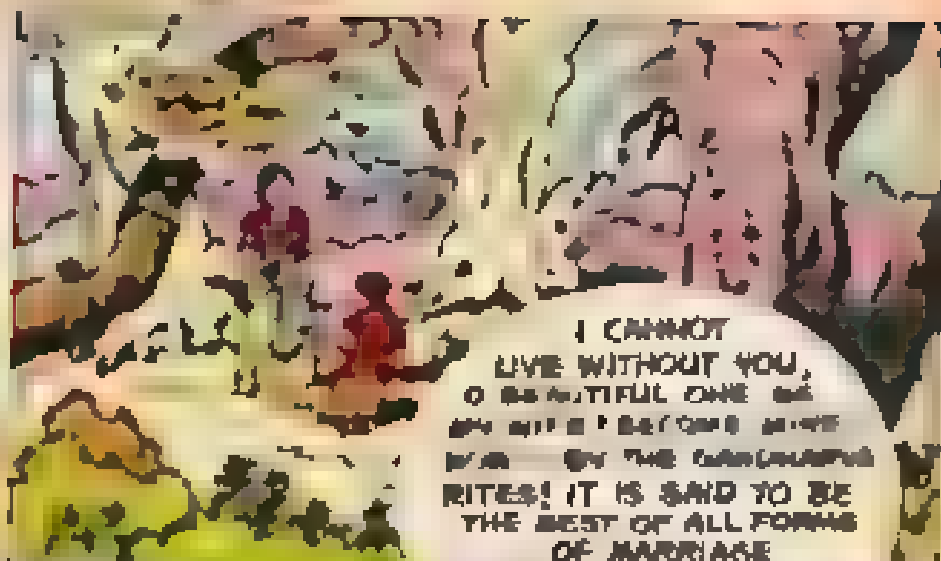
AT LAST DID HE FIND
HER STILL



HE
Fainted



WIFE O BEST OF
WIVES! IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE FOR YOU
MEN, ARE FARED
THROUGHOUT THE
LONG TO LIVE
YOUR CHILDREN
THIS



I CANNOT
LIVE WITHOUT YOU,
O BEAUTIFUL ONE BE
BY ME BY THE SACRAMENTAL
RITES! IT IS SAID TO BE
THE BEST OF ALL FORMS
OF MARRIAGE



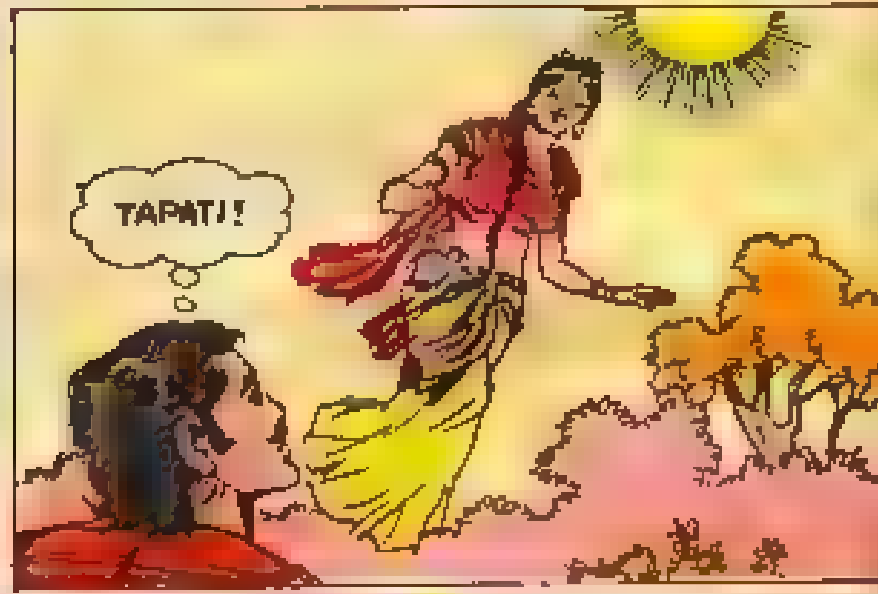
O KING
I DO NOT WANT TO
SEE YOU BY THE
SACRAMENTAL RITES
I HAVE A LOVING
FAITH



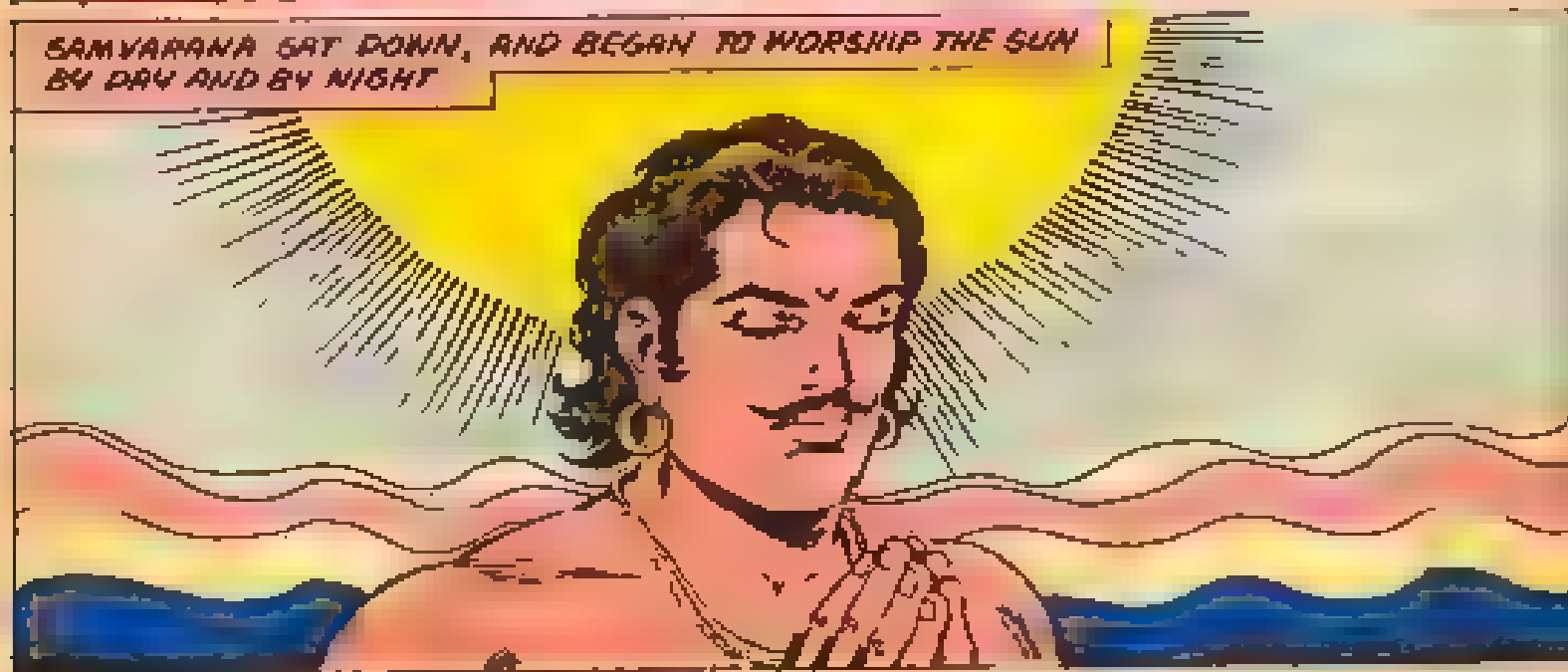
WHY
WILL NOT STAND
IN THE OPEN
APPROACHES TO ME
AND ASK FOR MY
HAND



APPROACH
IN THE OPEN
PENANCE AND
MEDITATION,
FOR



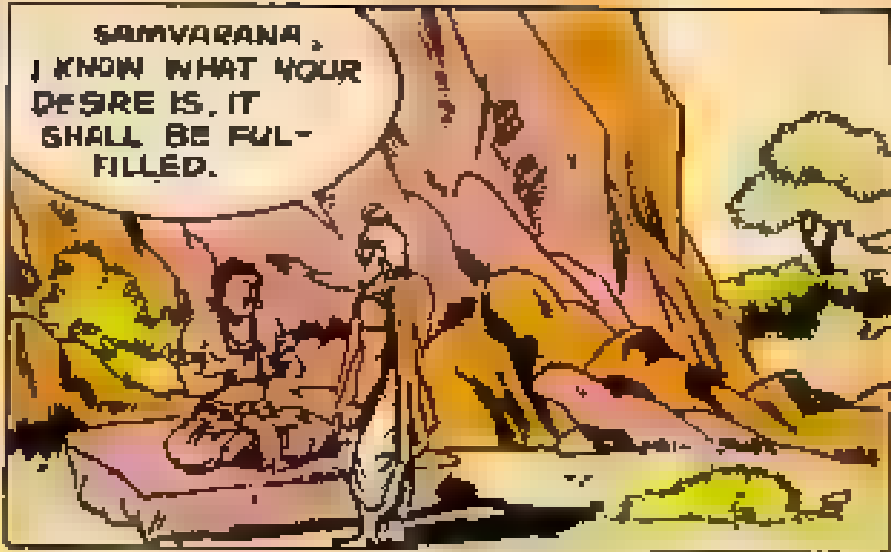
SAMVARANA SAT DOWN, AND BEGAN TO WORSHIP THE SUN BY DAY AND BY NIGHT



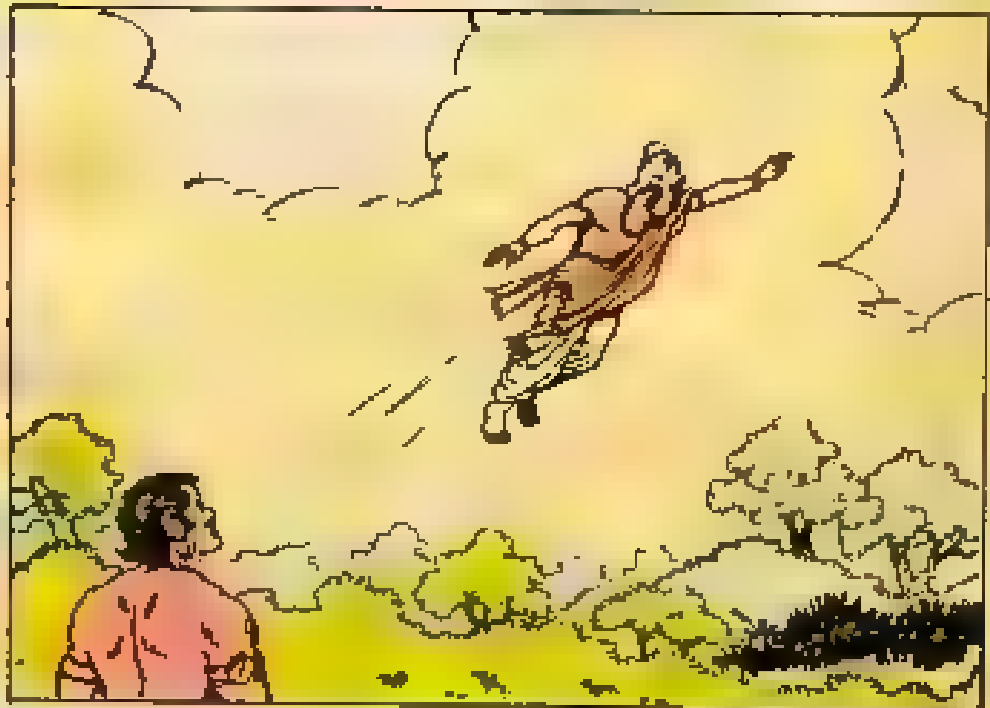
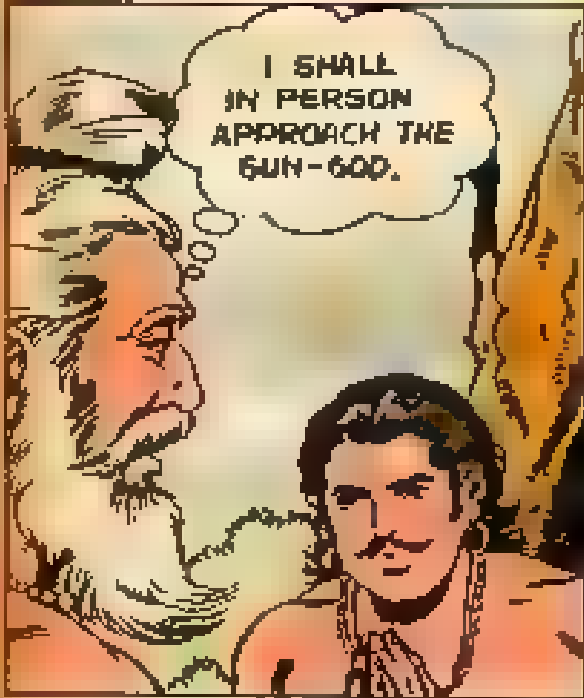
ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF HIS
PENANCE, VASISHTHA CAME TO HIM



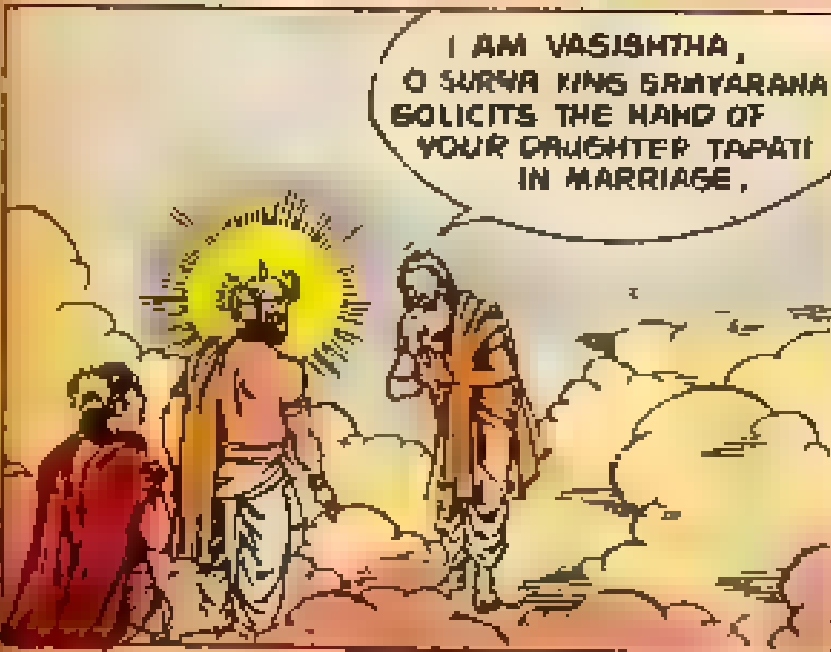
SAMVARANA,
I KNOW WHAT YOUR
DESIRE IS. IT
SHALL BE FUL-
FILLED.



I SHALL
IN PERSON
APPROACH THE
SUN-GOD.



I AM VASISHTHA,
O SURYA KING SAMVARANA
SOLICITS THE HAND OF
YOUR DAUGHTER TAPATI
IN MARRIAGE,



O GAGE, WHEN
THE BEST OF
MONARCHS
SEEKS THE HAND
OF THE BEST OF
WOMEN, WHAT
COULD BE MORE
PROPER THAN
BLESSING THEIR
UNION



LATER WHEN SARVADANA LOOKED UP INTO THE SKY
HIS HEART OVERFLOWED WITH GRATITUDE
AND JOY

O SAGE, FIRST YOU
INSPIRED ME TO WIN
BACK MY KINGDOM.
NOW YOU HAVE
HELPED MY PENANCE
BEAR FRUIT.



MAY YOU BOTH
LIVE TOGETHER IN
HARMONY AND
BLISS



AND THERE ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GODS
AND THE SAGES, SARVADANA MARRIED TARATI, THE DAUGHTER OF THE
SUN GOD



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pages from MAHABHARATA-1

RISHI VEDA VYASA DWELT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN HIS GRAND-SONS, THE KAURAVAS AND THE PANDAVAS, ON THE WAR ITSELF; AND ON ITS AFTERMATH AND IN HIS WISDOM HE SAW THEM AND THEIR ACTS AS NEITHER WHITE NOR BLACK BUT GREY. HE SAW IN THEIR LIVES THE HUMAN CONDITION WITH AN INSIGHT, A UNIVERSALITY THAT IS GIVEN ONLY TO THE GREATEST OF POETS

VEDA VYASA

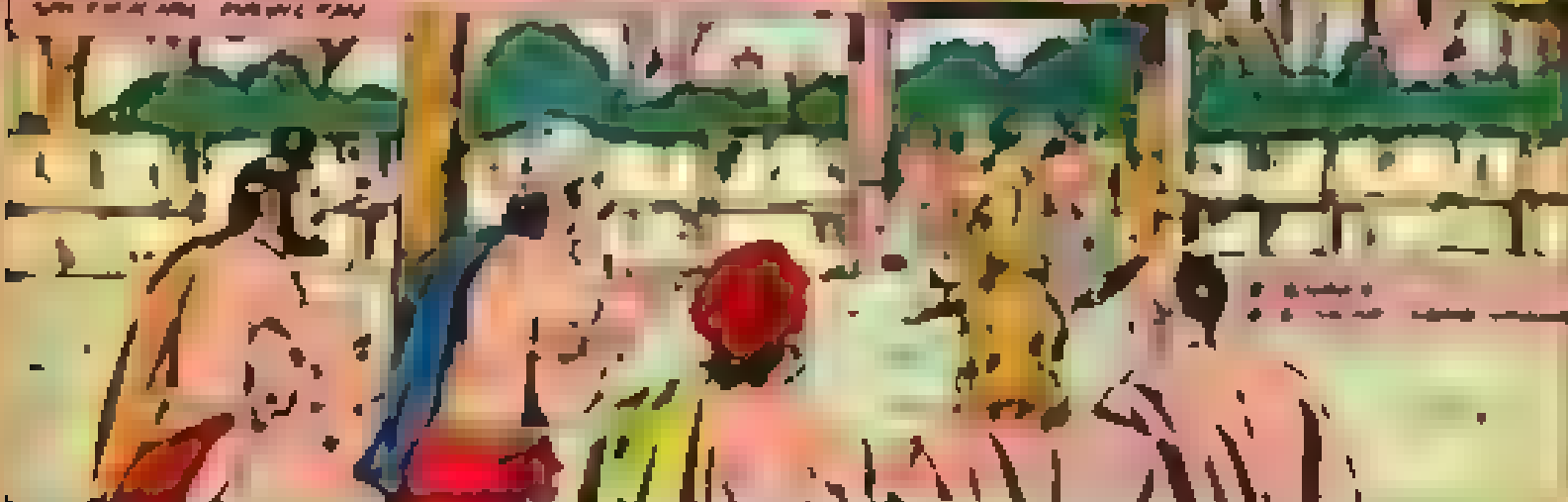
AND HE COMPOSED AN EPIC POEM MAHABHARATA FOR WHICH DRAUPADI AGREED TO BE THE SCRIBE. VYASA BEGAN WITH THE INVOCATION.

OM NAMA
IS IT WE, THE
PANDAVAS AND
KAURAVAS AND
NADA AND SARASWATI
MUST THE WORD
JAYA BE
UTTERED

WHEN AT LAST THE WORK WAS COMPLETED, VYASA TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES—SUMANTA, JAIMINI, PAULA, VAISHAMPAYANA AND HIS OWN SON SHUKA. THE VEDAS WITH THE MAHABHARATA AS THE FIFTH

BUT ONLY WHEN THE PERJUNCTIONS OF HIS WORK HAD DEPARTED FROM THE EARTH DID THE MAN EVER SEEM FROM THE PAST TO BE RECALLED IN PAIN AND THIS IS WHY IT CAME TO PASS

1. HEARING THAT YAMUNA SAW HIS GRANDSON'S
 GREAT GRANDSON WAS INSTALLED FOR THE SHAKTI
 RITUALS UNDER THE PALM TREE (AND TO THE
 SURPRISE OF THE PALM TREE)



2. AFTER THE RITUALS WERE OVER AND YAMUNA WAS ON HIS WAY TO
 THE PALM TREE, HE SAW ANNEHATHA GOING TO YAMUNA.



YOU HAVE BEEN A WITNESS, O SAGE,
 TO THE FEUD BETWEEN THE KAURAVAS
 AND THE PANDAVAS. I WISH TO HEAR FROM
 YOU OF THESE EVENTS. A KING DID AN AWESTRICK
 DEED WITH THE ARJUNA. I FEEL I HAVE
 BEEN A WITNESS TO THE DEED. THEY
 WERE THE KAURAVAS. I SAW THEM WHEN THEY
 WERE IN THE FIELD. I DID NOT SEE A KING. I
 SAW A KING. I SAW A KING. I SAW A KING.
 I SAW A KING. I SAW A KING. I SAW A KING.

3. ANNEHATHA
 WENT TO THE PALM
 TREE AND SAW
 THE PALM TREE.



THE PALM TREE FIRST IDENTIFIED HIMSELF BEFORE
 THE PALM.



AND THEN ALWAYS USED THE KING

O MONARCH,
I SHALL RECITE IT
BUT THE HISTORY TOLD
BY RISHI VYASA CONSISTS
OF OVER A HUNDRED
THOUSAND VERSES AND
WILL TAKE TIME

IT IS A DISCOURSE ON
Dharma (DUTY) ARTHA (WEALTH),
KAMA (PLEASURE) AND
MOKSHA (SALVATION). WHAT IS CONTAIN-
ED IN THIS WORK ABOUT
VIRTUE, WEALTH, PLEASURE
AND SALVATION MAY BE
SEEN ELSEWHERE BUT

WHATEVER
IS NOT CONTAINED
IN THIS IS NOT TO BE
FOUND ANYWHERE
HE THAT KNOWS IT
MAY BE REGARDED
AS ONE WHO KNOWS
THE VEDAS



• DHARMA (DUTY) • ARTHA (WEALTH) • KAMA (PLEASURE) • MOKSHA (SALVATION)

AND THESE WORDS HOLD GOOD TO THIS DAY AS ALL WHO HAVE READ VYASA'S IMMORTAL
WORK AND TRULY TO IMBIBE ITS ESSENCE WILL NO DOUBT

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!



A
COMPREHENSIVE
ACCOUNT
OF

MAHABHARATA

IN YOUR FAVOURITE SERIES

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

RURU AND PRAMADVARA

ONE DAY, A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN CAME TO A HERMITAGE IN THE FOREST

WE ARE TIRED AND THIRSTY

WILL SOMEONE GIVE US SOME WATER?

WAIT HERE, LITTLE ONE, I'LL ATTEND TO THEM

NO YOU ARE WELL NOW YOU MAY FLY AWAY.

DID MY LITTLE ONE STARTLE YOU?



RUKU WAS THE SON OF THE
BRAHMANA, PRAMATI.

I WILL HAVE TO
TELL THEM NOW
ELSE WILL I
LET FATHER
KNOW?

THAT EVENING WHEN THEY MET

I CANNOT
FORGET HER
THAT FACE

WHICH FACE?
WHOSE FACE?

THAT GIRL'S
FACE

WHICH
GIRL?

THE GIRL AT THE
HERMITAGE

WHICH
HERMITAGE?

DON'T
TEASE ME
YOU KNOW
WHO I
MEANT

WE DO,
WE DO VERY
WELL, INDEED

TELL MY FATHER
THAT I WOULD LIKE
TO MARRY HER
WILL YOU?

THE BEST DAY WHEN PARENTS HEARD THE NEWS FROM
RUBY'S FRIENDS —

III

I AM PLEASED TO
KNOW THAT MY SON HAS
CHOSEN A BRIDE FOR
HIMSELF. LET US GO
TO THE NEON TAGE
AT ONCE.



THE GIRL MEANWHILE
WAS BUSY TENDING
HER PLANTS.

THIS STEY WILL
HAVE YOU DOWN
STRAIGHT AND
TALL THERE!



ON
IT A
MINUTE



STHILAKESHA,
I HAVE COME TO
ASK FOR THE HAND
OF YOUR DAUGHTER
FOR MY SON

PRAMADI: I COULD
WISH FOR MY
BETTER MUSBAND
FOR MY CHILD

BUT YOU MUST
ALSO KNOW THAT SHE
IS MY DAUGHTER BY
ADoption THIS DAY
I WAS WALKING ALONG
THE BANK OF A
RIVER WHEN

ARE MY EYES
DECEIVING
ME?

NO IT IS AN
ABANDONED INFANT
ABANDONED BY SOME
RECKLESS PERSON
NO DOUBT

"I TOOK HOME THE CHILD THAT BEATED AS IT
WAS, WITH BEAUTY AND PERFORMED FOR HER
ALL THE CEREMONIES PRESCRIBED IN THE
SCRIPTURES

"AND HERE IN MY HERMITAGE,
UNDER MY TENDER CARE, MY
LITTLE DAUGHTER

"WAS BROWN AND BLANKETED FOR
HER SUPPRESSING BEAUTY HER GOOD-
NATURE AND GENEROSITY, I NAMED HER
PARNADYARA."



SIR, WHATEVER
SHE MAY BE I WANT
TO MARRY
HER



AND SO —

MY CHILDREN —
YOU ARE NOW
RETROTHED.



ON THE AUSPICIOUS
DAY WHEN THE STAR
VAPRA DRAVATA IS
IN THE ASCENDANT
YOU SHALL BE
MAN AND WIFE



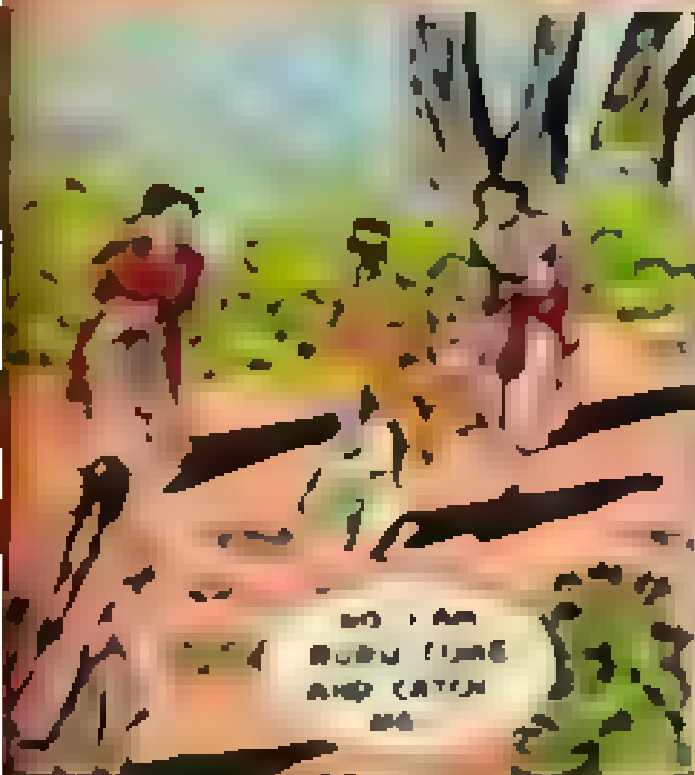
THERE WERE NONE HAPPIER IN THAT FOREST THAT DAY
THAN RUBY AND PARNADYARA





LITTLE DID RUDU SUSPECT THAT PATE WOULD
SOON BE HIS HAPPINESS IN THE END (PATE
WAS A BOY WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM
THE JAW OF THE BUSHY MAN AND WAS
BEING BROUGHT HOME)

I AM RUDU
STAY HERE
DON'T GO AWAY



NO, I AM
RUDU TIME
AND CATCH
ME



NO, NO, NO

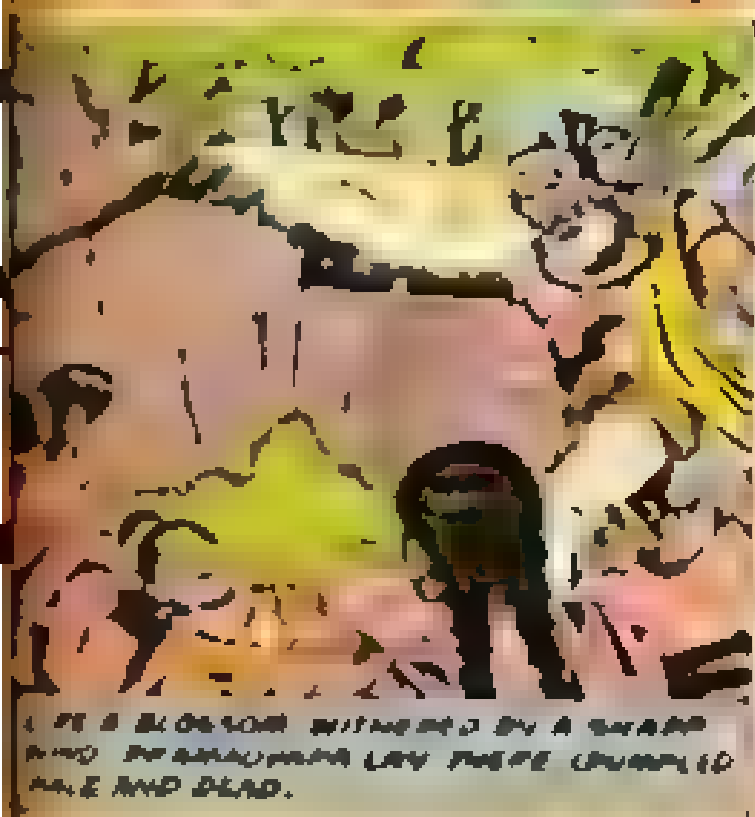
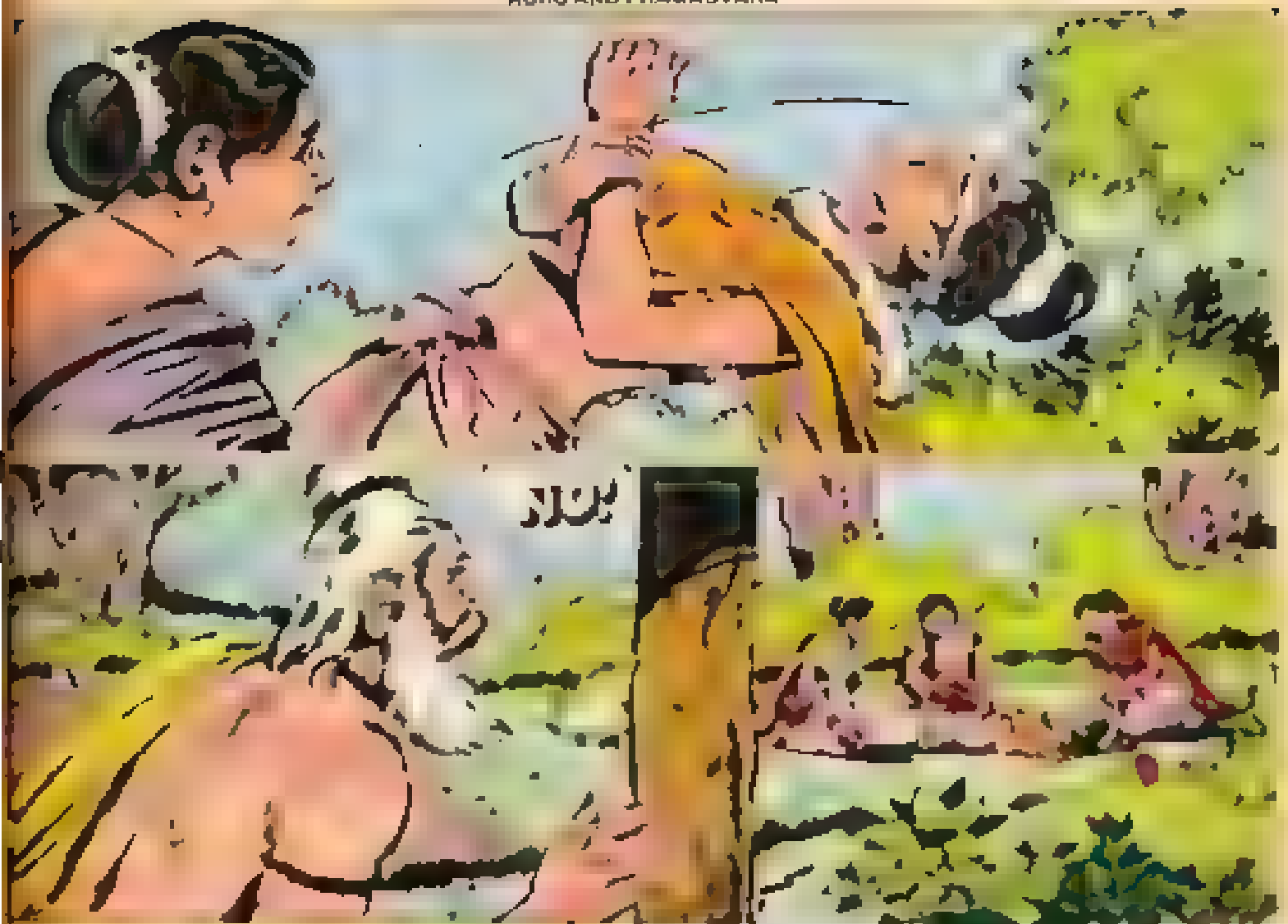


THIS DAY
PRADYAKA



PRADYAKA!

PRADYAKA!



THEY ASKED HIM WITHIN A FEW
 MOMENTS COULD HE PUSH BEATLY
 PRAMADVARA'S LIFE? THEY BELONGED
 AGAIN AND LOOKED LATELY THAT IT
 WAS IN LIFE

IT WAS A BLOSSOM WITHHELD BY A SHARP
 AND PRAMADVARA LAY THERE UNMIND-
 FUL AND DEAD.

THE NEWS SPREAD, FILLED WITH COMPASSION, THE DWELLERS OF THAT FOREST, THE SAGES KUSHIKA, UDDALAKA, BHARADWAJ, GOUTAMA AND OTHERS, CAME TO THE HERMITAGE.



TAKE HEART, O
STHULAKESHA.



POOR
CHILD!

POOR,
INNOCENT
CHILD!



JUST THEN—

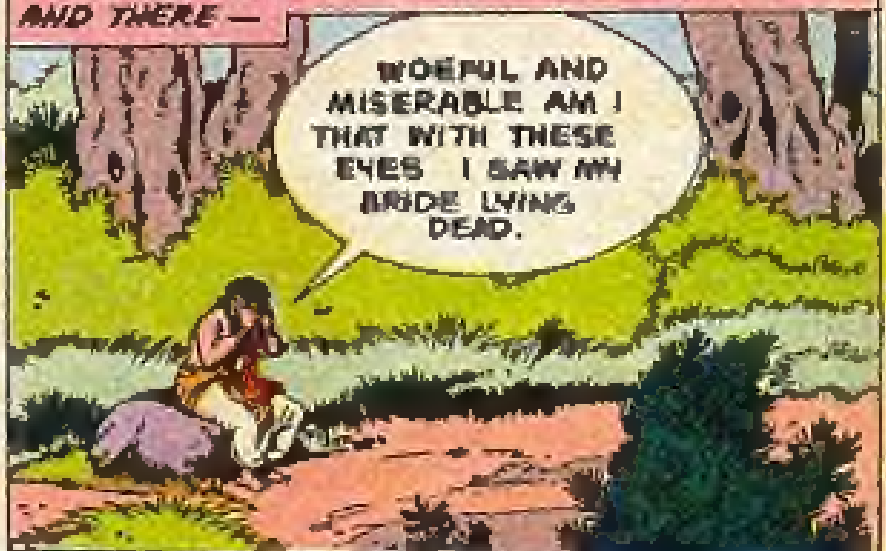


RURU, WHY HAS
THIS HAPPENED?
WHY?

RURU TURNED AND LEFT THE PLACE...



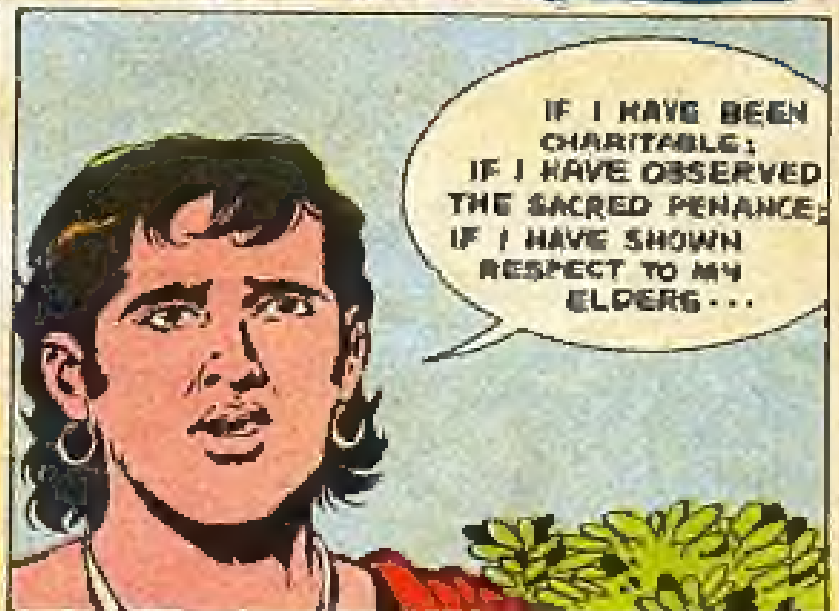
...AND BLINDLY MADE HIS WAY TO THE FOREST AND THERE —



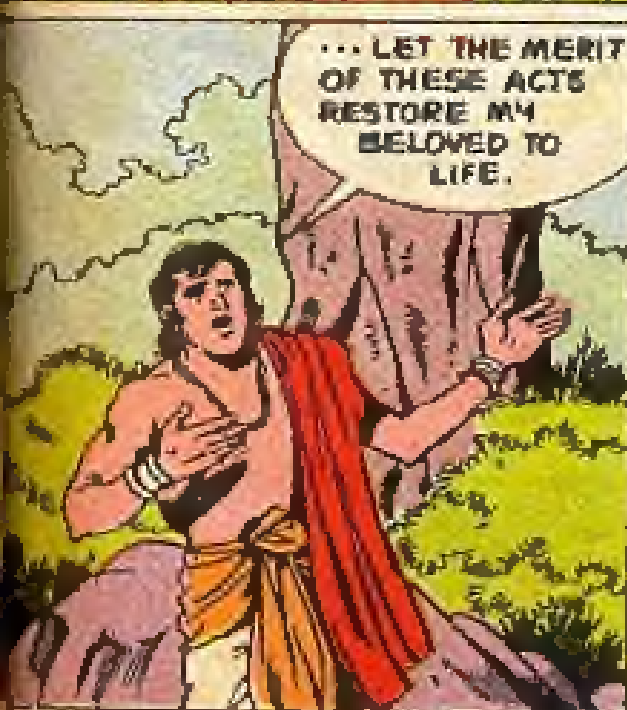
SHE WHO HEALED OTHER LIVING CREATURES IS NOW BEYOND ALL HEALING.



IF I HAVE BEEN CHARITABLE; IF I HAVE OBSERVED THE SACRED PENANCE; IF I HAVE SHOWN RESPECT TO MY ELDERS...



... LET THE MERIT OF THESE ACTS RESTORE MY BELOVED TO LIFE.



SUDDENLY —

O RURU, YOUR GRIEF CANNOT BRING PRAMADVARA BACK TO LIFE.



A DEVADOOTA* STOOD BEFORE RURI,

ONE WHOSE DAYS ON
THIS EARTH ARE OVER
CANNOT RETURN
TO LIFE AGAIN.

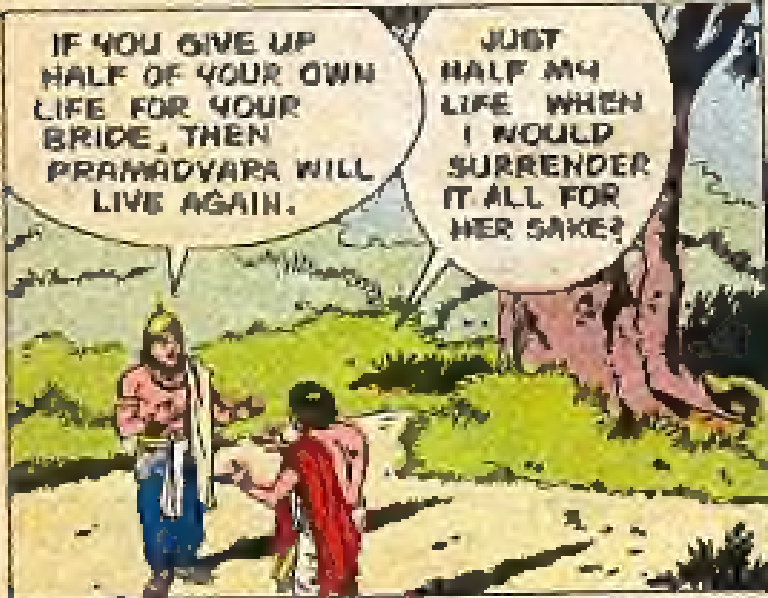


YET THE GODS
HAVE PROVIDED A
MEANS TO RESTORE
PRAMADYARA TO
LIFE.



IF YOU GIVE UP
HALF OF YOUR OWN
LIFE FOR YOUR
BRIDE, THEN
PRAMADYARA WILL
LIVE AGAIN.

JUST
HALF MY
LIFE WHEN
I WOULD
SURRENDER
IT ALL FOR
HER SAKE?



O HEAVENLY BEING,
HEAR THIS. HERE AND NOW,
I GIVE UP HALF OF MY
SPAN OF LIFE. LET
MY BRIDE ARISE.



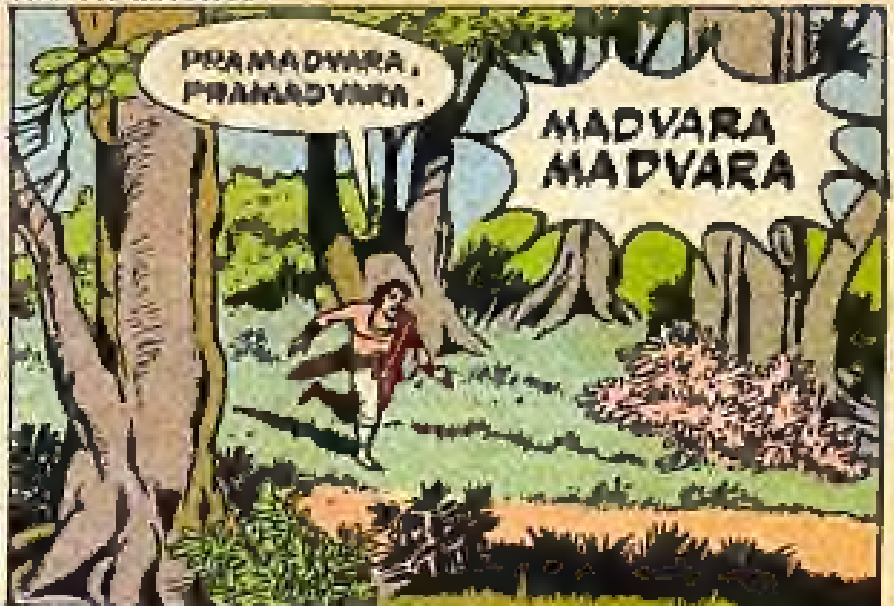
THE NEXT MOMENT, AT THE
HERMITAGE—

UNNN...



PRAMADYARA...
MY CHILD...





SHULAKESHA AND PRAMATI PERFORMED THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR CHILDREN ON THE APPOINTED DAY...

